

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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June 24, 2003

FROM: RUDY LOPEZ, Director
Department of Behavioral Health

SUBJECT: CONTRACTS WITH OASIS COUNSELING CENTER AND MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve Contract with Oasis Counseling Center in the amount of \$195,050 for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004 to provide Recovery Resource Center services.
2. Approve Contract with Mental Health Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$559,624 for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004 to provide Personal Services Coordination Team services.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Approval of this item will allow the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to continue provision of services to reduce the risk of homelessness, incarceration, and/or hospitalization for mentally ill adult residents of San Bernardino County through FY 03/04.

DBH is committed to providing and coordinating services to the adult mentally ill population, encouraging them to be independent, productive, and responsible. The State Legislature has recognized that severely mentally ill adults who do not get treatment frequently find themselves homeless, incarcerated, or hospitalized. In 2000, the State responded to the need by funding three pilot programs to serve the mentally ill homeless population. Services were initially provided using the "Recovery Model"; DBH now uses a "Recovery, Wellness, and Discovery Model." As a result of these pilot projects, DBH has shown that individuals with severe mental disorders can and often do recover. Homeless adults with mental disorders are most likely to recover, in full or in part, when they take ownership of their day-to-day affairs and when they have access to and use of available community resources, such as Recovery Resource Center (RRC) services. Providing outreach and intensive community mental health services through a Personal Services Coordination Team (PSCT) further enhances the success of DBH's Homeless Program.

On September 17, 2001 (item #064), the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved and authorized DBH to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for RRC and PSCT services for adults who are homeless or who are at risk of incarceration, becoming homeless, or being hospitalized due to their mental illness. DBH conducted a competitive procurement process in September 2001 in accordance with standard Purchasing Department procedures.

On January 29, 2002 (Item # 036) the BOS approved a contract with Oasis Counseling Center in the amount of \$292,572 for RRC services. The BOS also approved a contract with Mental Health Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$771, 718 for PSCT services. Both of these contracts were for the period February 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003.

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Due to staffing shortages, other RFPs conducted, and concentration of efforts on other services, DBH did not conduct an RFP for FY 03/04 for these services. DBH will conduct a RFP for these services during FY 03/04 for FY 04/05 service provision. DBH is currently reviewing department workflow procedures and instituting processes to ensure that future RFPs are conducted in a timely manner.

During the provision of these proposed contract services, the Adult System of Care Division of DBH will provide oversight, performance monitoring, program evaluation and linkages with the total Mental Health System to assist the Contractors listed above in meeting the needs of the mentally ill homeless population in San Bernardino County.

The RRC, Oasis Counseling Center, provides services including, but not limited to: rest rooms, showers, clothing, laundry facilities, telephones, message retrieval, mail pick-up, toiletries, meeting location for support groups, refreshments, light snacks, haircuts, job search, resume and job application forms, daily newspapers, computers for job searches, stationery, postage, assistance with locating appropriate housing, transportation, leads, and locked storage for personal items. The RRC is located in (city) Barstow and San Bernardino. DBH assists individuals in other regions with transportation to get to an agency site for services.

The PSCT, Mental Health Systems, Inc. provides services including mental health screening and assessment, physical health screening and assessment, mental and physical health education, referrals to free medical and dental services (including assistance in completing paperwork, and provision of transportation to appointments), alcohol and substance abuse services, referrals to support groups and residential recovery services, application assistance to obtain benefits, referrals to the Jobs and Employment Services Department (JESD) and One Stop Programs, jail diversion and coordination with local police and probation departments, jail diversion and coordination with local hospitals, benefits counseling, assistance with seeking, obtaining, and maintaining employment, and access to housing. The PSCT is a highly mobile, community-based team that works out of the RRC.

Upon approval of these contracts, Oasis Counseling Center and Mental Health Systems, Inc. will provide comprehensive mental health services for an estimated 150 mentally ill adult residents of San Bernardino County.

These contracts are funded entirely by the State Department of Mental Health (DMH) using Adult System of Care (ASOC) AB 2034 Grant Award funds. There is no County match required. AB 2034, chaptered in September 2000, added significant funding to provide comprehensive mental health treatment to the homeless and mentally ill population. On October 3, 2000 the BOS approved DBH's Letter of Intent (Item #033) to apply for and accept AB 2034 Grant Award funds. On November 8, 2000 the State DMH notified DBH that San Bernardino County had been approved for \$585,494 in FY 00/01, with \$241,381 in carry-over funds, and \$1,125,000 in AB 2034 funds annually thereafter. The funding that is not used directly for contracted services is used for other homeless services including motel vouchers, medications, and transportation.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: These agreements have been reviewed and approved by Deputy County Counsel, Charles Larkin on June 6, 2003. This item was reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Carol Hughes, Administrative Analyst) on June 16, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: These contracts, totaling \$754,674, are funded entirely by the State Department of Mental Health using AB 2034 Grant Award funds. Funding is included in the Department's proposed FY 03/04 budget. There is no local cost to the County.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends approval, as it imposes no local cost.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): ALL

PRESENTER: Rudy Lopez, Director, DBH, (909) 357-7024